

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by Examiner Murphy during a brief telephone conference regarding the rejection under §112, first paragraph, set forth on page 2-3 of the Office Action. The Examiner agreed that the language of the rejection was intended to convey that the specification was enabling for claims to a method for screening a compound for an effect on the ability of a protein to transport organic anions, in which the protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, but do not reasonably provide enablement for claims to a method for screening a compound for an effect on the ability of a protein to transport organic anions, in which the protein has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, to which at least one amino acid residue has been deleted, substituted or added such that the protein has at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 17 and 21 have been amended. Claims 17 and 19-21 are now pending in the instant application. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, allegedly because the specification, which is enabling for a method for screening a compound for an effect on the ability of a protein to transport organic anions in which the protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 is allegedly not enabled for muteins of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to

reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the position taken in the Office Action, the claims have been amended to provide methods for screening a compound for an effect on the ability of a protein to transport organic anions, wherein the protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 19-21, as currently amended, fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, including the enablement and written description requirements of §112, first paragraph.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 30, 2004